

## Air War College

### **Title:** Homeland Security and Defense

**Description:** We are now in an era when mass casualty weapons make it possible for individuals or small groups to inflict the kind of damage on societies that was once only within the capabilities of nation states. This course examines the threats to and vulnerabilities of the US homeland and analyzes the actors, organizational structures, plans, policies, programs and resources required to defend the country against such threats. Homeland Security and Defense is the nation's top priority to secure our homeland and protect the American people from terrorist attacks.

**Course Objective:** Evaluate the current threats to and vulnerabilities of the United States (US) homeland and examine the actors, organizational structures, plans, policies, programs and resources, and recommended countermeasures required to defend the country against such threats. Provide a venue to analyze current and emerging joint warfighting/enabling capabilities to support Homeland Defense and Security operations.

### **Desired Learning Outcomes:**

1. Examine the current and future threats to US homeland and its territories from both domestic and international actors, and assess vulnerabilities and the implications they have for successful U.S. deterrence and other security policies.
2. Analyze the roles of various civil and military organizations designated to protect, prevent, respond, and recover from a potential attack on our homeland.
3. Investigate the critical infrastructure threats posed by state and terrorist actors and suggest new courses of action to minimize these threats.

### **Required Texts:**

1. Purpura, Philip P. *Terrorism and Homeland Security*. MA: Butterworth—Heinemann, 2007.
2. White, Jonathan R., *Terrorism and Homeland Security*, 6ed, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2009.
3. Kindt, Michael T., Jerrold M. Post, Barry R. Schneider, eds., *The World's Most Threatening Terrorist Networks and Criminal Gangs*, New York: Palgrave & MacMillan, August 2009.
4. Kamien, David G. *The McGraw-Hill Homeland Security Handbook*. New York: MacGraw-Hill, 2006.

### **Determination of grade:**

1. Contribution —30%
2. Issue Paper (3-5 pages) —50%
3. Student Presentation —20%

**Contribution:** Students must be active in providing solid inputs in all discussions, field study trips, and group activities. The contribution grade will be based on each student's demonstrated understanding of the readings, research, and analysis that adds to the overall success of individual and group efforts.

**Issue Paper:** Prepare a well reasoned 3-5 page paper on an issue (agreed upon by both the student and instructor) related to homeland security and/or terrorism. The opening statement or introductory paragraph must contain a clear statement of purpose in presenting the issue and a position on that issue. The remainder of the paper should consist of integrated paragraphs or statements that logically support or defend that position. The student must have adequate, accurate and relevant support material. The concluding paragraph must contain a specific recommendation or a clear restatement of the supported position. All documentation for this paper is to conform to the *Air University Style Guide for Writers and Editors (AU-1)*. Utilize a minimum of 2 sources, combined military and other. Include a bibliography. The paper is to be typed and double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman with one-inch margins. Print a copy for submittal and provide electronic version to course instructor.

**Presentation:** Each student will present their issue paper that raises (1) a new idea for consideration or (2) advocates a current situation or proposal regarding homeland security and/or terrorism and offer solution or recommendations. Each student will have 15 minutes to brief their presentation followed by 5 minutes for Q&A. Each student will also submit a copy of their power point presentation.

**Course Outline:**

IP 1: Course Introduction

IP 2: Origins of Terrorism

IP 3: Domestic and International Terrorist Threat

IP 4: Weapons of Mass Destruction and Cyber Terrorism

IP 5: Threats to the Nation's Critical Infrastructure

- Issue paper due

IP 6: National and State Emergency Preparedness and Response

IP 7: DoD in Support of Homeland Defense

IP 8: Field Study Trip, Atlanta, GA

IP 9: Student Presentations

IP 10: Anticipating the Future of Terrorism, Technology, Research and Education